

HEALTH
A
C.R. 67

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHARLTON KINGS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

For the Year

1945

Charlton Kings Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT 1945

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Charlton Kings.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Cannell and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1945.

Included in this Report is a statement of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Middleton), on his work during the year.

I resumed my duties as Medical Officer of Health to the United Districts on 1st October, 1945, after serving with the R.A.M.C. from 1st September, 1939.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population, 5,666, shows a slight fall compared with the previous year, whereas the number of ration books issued for residents in the District was 6,100.

The Death Rate, 12·2, is much the same as that for the County as a whole.

The Birth Rate, 15·5, is well below the rate 18·9 of last year, and is somewhat lower than the national figure, 16·1.

However, the infantile deaths, children dying before one year of age, are at the rate of 23 per 1,000 live births; one of the lowest rates ever recorded. This figure may be taken as a yardstick for measuring the well-being of the community.

There was no unusual incidence in the causes of death. Infectious disease was not prevalent except for an extensive outbreak of measles in the early months of the year; fortunately there were no deaths from this cause.

On my return I found that preparations had been made, in anticipation of the end of the war, to meet the most pressing need of the district; the provision of houses to meet the acute shortage. Fifty-six were being built and formed the instalment for the first post-war year.

The Councils' slum clearance programme was interrupted by the war. The houses scheduled for demolition have become even worse during the intervening years, and others, partly because of the difficulty in carrying out timely repairs, now have to be added, making a list of more than fifty houses. These houses are in an advanced stage of dis-repair. They are damp, which is a serious feature and causative factor of disease, especially the acute rheumatism of young people. The essential amenities of a house are missing, such as proper food stores, sinks, washing accommodation and water laid on to a tap inside the house instead of a stand-pipe serving several houses.

As soon as the more pressing need for houses has been met the work of removing these unfit houses must be resumed.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

JULY, 1946.

Charlton Kings Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year 1945.

Area in Acres, 3,399.

Rateable value (45), £40,558.

Number of inhabited houses, 1,687.

Population (as estimated by the Registrar General), 5,666.

Yield of one penny rate, £162/1/7d.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

		LIVE BIRTHS		
		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	40	38	78
Illegitimate	...	5	5	10
Total	...	45	43	88

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 15·5.

		STILL BIRTHS		
		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Total	...	1	1	2

Still Births per 1,000 of the estimated population, 0·3.

11 per cent. of total live births were illegitimate against 12 per cent. the previous year.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	1	1	2
Total	...	1	1	2

Giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 23 per 1,000 Live Births.

DEATHS

69 (32 Males, 37 Females) deaths of residents were registered during the year, giving a Death Rate of 12·2 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Cancer, 2·0 per 1,000 population.

The principle causes of death were :—

DISEASE				Males	Females
Typhoid and Para. Fevers	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilis Diseases	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	2	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Infect. Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	{ Bucc. Cav. Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F) }		...	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	—	1
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	—	2
Cancer of other Sites	...	...	...	3	4
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	3	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	3	—
Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	...	...	—	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	2	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	5	1
Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	—	—
Premature Birth	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital Malformation—Birth Injuries, Infantile	Disease, etc.		...	1	—
Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
Road Traffic Acc.	...	...	...	—	—
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	1	—
All other Causes	...	...	...	1	2
Total				32	37
Total, both Male and Female				69	

Infectious Diseases notified during 1945

(Excluding Tuberculosis)

DISEASES.	Under 1 year		1 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 and upwards		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	6
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Measles ...	1	3	33	26	32	38	1	1	2	2	139
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases were notified during the year :

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			ALL FORMS Total
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
4	2	6	1	—	1	7

The Age Group at notification :—

Under 1 year		1 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 and upward	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	2

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1945, were as follows :—

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			ALL FORMS Total
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
17	11	28	5	3	8	36

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

In order to wipe out diphtheria we must get 75% of the children below fifteen years of age immunised. At the present time 64% of the children in the country, as a whole, have been immunised, while in Charlton Kings 60% are known to have been treated in this way.

Diphtheria is most deadly when contracted by young infants, therefore immunisation should be completed before a child is one year old. The disease is most common at ages from four to six years. To give a child the maximum protection at the start of school life the primary immunisation needs a single reinforcing dose when the child starts school.

Immunisation is carried out at the Infant Welfare Centres and in the schools.

There were no cases of diphtheria in Charlton Kings during the year, but to ensure continued immunity from this disease further efforts and continued health education must be carried on.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of Children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to 31st December, 1945:—

Age at 31/12/45 <i>i.e.</i> born in Year	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5 to 9 1936-40	10 to 14 1931-35	Total under 15
No. Immunised	0	51	62	36	58	327	230	764
Estimated mid-year Population 1945	448					811		1259

DIPHThERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION

No cases were notified and no deaths occurred from diphtheria.

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

			1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Birth Rate ...	...		12·8	11·8	17·9	19·3	15·5
(Per 1,000 population)							
Death Rate ...	...		12·6	14·4	13·5	11·8	12·2
(Per 1,000 population)							
Infantile Mortality Rate ...			21·0	13·8	66·0	70·0	23
(Per 1,000 Live Births)							
(Deaths of infants under one year)							

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., ARE GIVEN BELOW

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns	148 Smaller Towns	County of Gloucestershire	Charlton Kings U.D.
Birth Rate ...	16·1	19·1	19·2	18·4	15·5
(Per 1,000 population)					
Death Rate ...	11·4	13·5	12·3	12·6	12·2
(Per 1,000 population)					
Infantile Mortality Rate	46	54	43	38	23
(Deaths of infants under 1 year)					
(Per 1,000 Live Births)					
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	5·6	7·8	4·5	—	—
(Per 1,000 Live Births)					

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

The following table gives the position with regard to a public piped supply:—

TOTAL		<i>a</i> Direct to house		<i>b</i> By Standpipe
1687	No. of houses	} supplied by	1500	14
5666	No. of population		5040	47

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

(Mr. F. A. Middleton)

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, BAKEHOUSES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, ETC.

		Number of Inspections	Notices served	Nuisances abated
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	152	12	—
Bakehouses	...	8	—	—
Factories and Workshops, etc.		43	4	3

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING 1945

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 96
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... Nil
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil
- Number of defective houses rendered fit ... 14

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1945

I have condemned during the past year 30½ lbs. food as unfit for human food. This I sent to depot for pig food.

HOUSING—OVERCROWDING

We are very overcrowded in this district owing to shortage of houses and an influx of new residents from other districts.

SEWAGE

The sewage in this district is now very old and defective. It should be renewed and extended to take the sewage of the many septic tanks now in use in this district.